

## **II. BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

### **Make Sure You Should File Your Bankruptcy In The Eastern District of California**

The bankruptcy court is a federal court. The federal court system divides the United States into judicial districts. Every state has at least one federal judicial district. Many have more. In California, for example, there are four federal judicial districts. This package contains information about filing bankruptcy in the Eastern District of California.

As a general rule, you should file your bankruptcy case in the bankruptcy court for the federal judicial district where you have lived for the greater part of the previous 180 days. You can also file in the district where your principal place of business or principal assets have been located for the greatest part of the previous 180 days.

The Eastern District of California covers the 34 counties in northern California indicated below. If your residence, principal place of business, or principal assets have been located in one or more of these counties for the necessary period of time, you should file your bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California. The specific county of your residence, principal place of business, or principal assets determines in which of the Eastern District of California's three divisions your case should be filed.

**Sacramento Division:** Petitions from Alpine, Amador, Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, and Yuba counties, and the Postal ZIP Codes of 95220, 95227, 95234, 95237, 95240, 95241, 95242, 95253, 95258, and 95286 within San Joaquin County, should be filed in Sacramento.

**Modesto Division:** Petitions from Calaveras, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne counties, and all Postal ZIP Codes within San Joaquin County EXCEPT those designated above for filing in the Sacramento Division, should be filed in Modesto.

**Fresno Division:** Petitions from Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare counties should be filed in Fresno.

If your residence, principal place of business or principal assets have NOT been located in one or more of the counties listed above for the necessary period of time, please refer to Appendix 1, *United States Bankruptcy Courts Within The State Of California (Form EDC 2-070)*, to determine where your case should be filed and contact the U.S. Bankruptcy Court located in that district and division for additional information.